

furnished by the drive shaft of the ratchet head to the second end of the ratchet extension shaft; and

wherein the ratchet extension shaft is disposed substantially parallel and centered to the ratchet extension sleeve.

REMARKS

Claims 3 to 6, 12, 13, 17, 19 to 22, and 27 through 35 continue to be under consideration.

The Office Action refers to *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on October 31, 2007 has been entered.

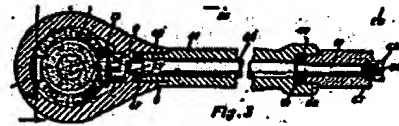
Applicants appreciate the withdrawal of the finality of the previous Office Action and the entry of applicants' submission filed on October 31, 2007.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections ■ 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 3 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lampke, US Patent No. 2,808,749.

Applicants are amending claims 3 and 5 to obviate the rejection.

Lampke as described in the previous Office actions meets all of the limitations of the above claims,



including the new recitations, i.e., lever arm having first and second configurations (Figs. 1 and 4); capable of attaching the sleeve to another sleeve for forming different length lever arm (Fig. 3, sleeve attachment devices, threaded sockets 5, male and 49, female).

Lampke teaches to substitute a drive shaft 77 by a longer drive shaft 55. In contrast, the drive extension shaft of the present application is not substituted, but instead inserted between handle and head. The insertion is possible, where the drive extension shaft has the same length as the drive extension sleeve. This limitation of equal length of drive extension shaft and drive extension sleeve is now incorporated in claims 3 and 5 and thereby clearly and patentably distinguishes these claims over the reference Lampke.

The Office Action refers to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103.

5. Claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke.

Lampke meets the limitations of claims 4 and 6 except for disclosing an extension and a shaft having a length between 6 to thirty inches, and for disclosing the range or a specific size of the plurality of extensions; obvious modification to one of ordinary skill in the art dependent on work-piece/operational parameters as indicated in previous Office actions.

Applicants respectfully submit that the reference Lampke fails to teach the limitations of claims 4 and 6. The reference Lampke teaches to use two drive shafts of different length, whereas the claims of the present application require that one drive extension shaft has the same length as the drive extension sleeve.

6. Claims 12,13,17,19-22 and 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampke in view of Hendrickson.

The present amendment changes claims 12, 17, and 19 by incorporating in these claims language which requires the drive extension shaft and the drive extension sleeve to be of equal length.

Lampke meet the limitations of the above claims, e.g., in Fig. 3, handle (63); handle drive shaft (65); handle sleeve mounting collar (68); extension sleeve (41) with first end formed with an interface collar (49) attached to mounting collar (68) and second end formed as in interface thread (45); extension shaft (55) having first end (61) and second end (47) disposed parallel and centered to the extension sleeve; shaft drive tang (57); ratchet head having a socket mount (33) and a threaded collar (5) attached to the sleeve interface thread (45); head drive shaft (15) connected to shaft drive tang (57); wherein the shaft is unsupported apart form the support (including bearings) furnished by the drive shaft and extension shaft and by the ratchet head to the extension shaft; and wherein the handle is directly attachable to the head (Fig. 5);

except for disclosing an air power wrench and for disclosing a drive socket attached to the first end of the extension shaft and connected to the drive shaft (65) protruding from the handle (63). Hendrickson teaches connecting the drive shaft to the handle and to the head using corresponding socket and boss means.

The angle head extension for wrenches by the reference Hendrickson is so different from the gear operated power wrench that a person of ordinary skill in the art would not be able to meaningfully combine these references. Both references agree not to have a drive extension shaft of the same length as the drive extension sleeve as is now required in applicants' claims.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a pneumatic wrench and socket and boss connection means as taught by Hendrickson, 04:56 in adapting the invention for application requiring pneumatic drive and in ease of assembly/production.

It is not clear how such a proposed combination of the references Lampke and Hendrickson really would look. The reference Lampke clearly teaches the presence of an electric motor 63.

Lampke in view of Hendrickson meets the limitations of claim 13, e.g., the types of connections having similar constructions between the head and the handle.

The reference Lampke clearly does not have similar constructions between head and handle as there is a drive shaft 77 is placed between head and handle by the reference Lampke.

Lampke modified by Hendrickson as described meets all of the limitations of claims 17, 19-22 and 33-35, e.g., no contact between the shaft and the sleeve.

With regards to claims 27 and 32, Lampke modified by Hendrickson meets all of the limitations except for not using bearings; however eliminating the bearings, to save manufacturing costs, would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art.

It is respectfully submitted that the present invention is associated with substantial advantages relative to m the constructions of the references Lampke and /or Hendrickson by providing for an easy tool drive extension.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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